that had been abandoned by its original investors. Ms. Brock never let age get in the way of 16 hour days or numerous hours of volunteer service. Ms. Brock was a survivor and a shining example of what each of us should strive to become. She was loved by all in the community, whether they knew her personally or not. She was everything that was good in being human, not perfect but as close as I imagine most will come to while here on earth. My staff who knew her loved her as well. She was always offering her home as a place to stay and she never passed up an opportunity to make us all feel at home. I know we are all a little bit better off for knowing Ms. Brock, whether it was only for a few days or decades. May she take the heavens by storm as she did Calhoun and Liberty Counties, for I know she is smiling on us all.

CELEBRATING SAINT PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JULIAN C. DIXON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. DIXON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call to the attention of the Congress the historic 90 year old Saint Paul Baptist Church of Los Angeles, California, whose great congregation will come together on Friday, February 13 to commemorate the one year anniversary of their esteemed Pastor, Dr. Joel Anthony Ward.

An array of distinguished religious and civic leaders from around our city will join the congregation to honor Dr. Ward and his wife, MaLinda at this special service. The keynote address will be delivered by Reverend Joe B. Hardwick, Pastor of Praises of Zion Baptist Church, whose outstanding choir will sing at the service.

This special weekend will culminate on Sunday, February 15, 1998, with a special worship service. Among the participants will be Dr. William Epps, Pastor of Second Baptist Church; Rev. Alvin Tunstill, Jr., Pastor of Trinity Baptist Church; Rev. Perry J. Jones, Pastor of Messiah Baptist Church; and Rev. G.D. McClain, Pastor of First Bethany Missionary Baptist Church. These distinguished clergymen recognize the challenges that religious leaders face today, and appreciate the remarkable record Dr. Ward has established in the short time he has been Pastor of Saint Paul Baptist Church.

Dr. Ward was the Pastor and Organizer of Rehoboth Baptist Church in Detroit, Michigan when he accepted the call to become Pastor of Saint Paul. His inaugural year has been a great success. His exceptional stewardship has touched many lives, and has made an important difference in the life of his church.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues in this chamber join me in extending our best wishes to Dr. Ward on this joyous occasion. May God continue to bless his work as he ministers to the spiritual needs of his congregation.

TRIBUTE TO COLEMAN ALEXANDER YOUNG

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the life of a man who was a civil rights legend, a political genius and an extraordinary human being. Coleman Alexander Young, Detroit's first African American mayor, died November 29, 1997, in the city he loved. He was 79 years old.

Mr. Young, who served a record five consecutive terms before leaving office in 1994, blazed a trail of social and political equality by acting on his conviction that all people are entitled to a decent life. Born in the segregated South when white-robed Klansmen inflicted a reign of terror on African Americans, Young had an uncompromising commitment to justice, equality of opportunity, economic empowerment and dignity for all people.

That commitment formed the foundation of his activism in the labor movement, the U.S. Army, the national political scene and the mayor's office. Mr. Young was, as former Michigan Governor William Milliken said at his funeral service, ''a man of glorious gifts.''

He was dazzingly brilliant, disarmingly witty and outrageously outspoken. He was quick to anger and even quicker to forgive. He was not afraid to speak the truth, no matter whom it upset, and he was utterly fearless in his defense of basic human rights for all people—urban dwellers, common laborers, political activists, the disenchanted and those ignored or scorned by society.

Coleman Young was born May 24, 1918, in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, the oldest of William and Ida Young's five children. In 1923, the Young family moved to Detroit where they settled in Black Bottom, a racially and ethnically diverse eastside Detroit neighborhood just two miles from the office he would later occupy as mayor.

The pernicious effects of systemic racism would follow him through his life. But instead of weakening his resolve, these challenges strengthened his spirit. As a student, Young excelled in his classes and earned all A's, but was denied a scholarship to three parochial high schools when school officials learned he was black. After graduating second in his high school class, he was denied scholarships to the University of Michigan and what is now known as Wayne State University because of his race.

Years later he said those early brushes with racial discrimination were catalysts that fueled his desire to make fundamental social changes. The following excerpts from the memorial booklet prepared for Mr. Young's funeral sum up the early years when he paid a heavy price for being a labor activist in Detroit and a civil rights activist in the segregated Army Air Corps.

''His activism was evident in 1937 when he joined the ranks of automotive workers. Young worked as an electrician's apprentice and soon became a labor organizer of the Congress of Industrial Organizations (CIO). He was fired because of his union activities. Taking a job at the U.S. Post Office, Young again angered supervisors by recruiting employees to band together in a labor union. Postal managers used Young's involvement in a protest against racial segregation at Sojourner Truth, as eastside public housing project, as a reason to fire him.

During World War II, Young joined the U.S. Army at the age of 24. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry and later transferred to the Air Corps. There he became the nation's first black bombardier. He and other blacks in the Army Air Corps became known as the Tuskegee Airmen. However, racial discrimination prevented them from fighting in the War. They fought the Army instead.

Young organized a group of 100 other black officers and staged a sit-in at the ''whites only'' officers Club at Freeman Field, Indiana. They were jailed after they refused to sign documents agreeing to stay out of the club. Ironically the black officers were kept under guard while German POWs moved freely on the base. At least one high-ranking army officer wanted to court-material and shoot the black officers. The protest did end segregation at the club.

Mayor Young continued his work as a union organizer after the war. Elected director of organization of the Wayne County AFL–CIO in 1948, he was the organization's first black paid staff member. In response to the blatant racism in the labor union hierarchy, he and other activists founded the National Negro Labor Council, whose goal was to win decent wages for blacks and whites. Entrenched union leaders were stunned and upset by the rapid growth of this group that dared to challenge the union establishment. NNLC membership included everyone from black factory workers in Detroit to white textile workers in the South to actors and activists on the east coast. Young and the NNLC also drew the wrath of the House Un-American Activities Committee which was investigating communism. He was summoned before the committee in 1952. Young's defiant testimony and his fearless challenge of the committee's role in spying on and terrorizing ordinary citizens made him a hero to thousands of Americans.

When asked if any of his associates were Communists, Young told the committee that they had him confused with a stool pigeon. When the committee lawyer said ''Niggra'' instead of Negro, Young corrected his speech and accused him of deliberately slurring the word to insult blacks. Young did not mince words about his view of the committee. He told them, ''I consider it an un-American activity to pry into a person's private thoughts, to pry into a person's associates. I consider that an un-American activity.''

Dave Moore, a longtime associate, recalled the euphoria the testimony sparked. ''Coleman Young could have been elected king of Detroit. Blacks and whites responded to what he said.''

But that victory was short-lived. The auto plants still blacklisted him. The UAW and other unions slammed the door in his face and the FBI put him on its list of dangerous individuals. For years he survived on jobs, but never lost his thirst for equality.

In the 1960's, Young focused on politics as the way to bring about necessary change. In 1964, he was elected to the State Senate. He quickly rose to leadership and became the first black member of the Democratic Natural Committee. In 1973, just six years after a searing urban rebellion that charred the heart and the landscape of Detroit, Young decided to run for Mayor.

Young had little money and even less support from the establishment. But his insistent call for an end to police brutality resonated among both blacks and whites who chafed under an occupying army of hostile police. He won the race and became the first black mayor in the city's history.

Young took the reins of a battered and nearly bankrupt city. The 1974 Oil Embargo nearly decimated Detroit car makers, and the city shuddered from a mass exodus of businesses and population. During his 20-year tenure, he integrated the Detroit Police Department despite strident protests from the police officer's union, established a national recognized community crime prevention program and brought the city through its financial crisis by forging alliances with political, business, union, community and religious leaders. Because of Young's success, Henry Ford II described him as ''A damn good business manager.''

Young led the effort to modernize Detroit auto plants and to keep major businesses in the city. During his tenure, the Renaissance Center opened, the city became a site on the Grand Prix circuit, Detroit saw the construction of its first-single family subdivision in decades, and the long-neglected river front began to blossom with parks and residential developments.

Mayor Young gave economic opportunity to record numbers of black, Hispanic and female business owners. He brought blacks and women into government by appointing them to his staff and to head city departments. He appointed blacks and whites on a ''50–50'' basis.

During his lifetime, Young was a past president of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and served on the Democratic National Committee and the National Conference of Democratic Mayors. He was the recipient of the prestigious Jefferson Award from the American Institute for Public Service and the NAACP's coveted Springarn medal for distinguished achievement. In addition the Congressional Black Caucus honored him with its Adam Clayton Powell Award for outstanding political leadership. A Congressional Black Caucus tribute to Mayor Young is included at the end of these remarks.

Mayor Young decided against running for office a sixth time because of ill health. In his later years, he taught at Wayne State University which has an endowed chair in urban affairs named for him. He also concentrated his attention on a foundation he established to give college scholarships to needy youngsters.

His survivors include a son, Coleman Young Jr., two sisters, Bernice Grier and Juanita Clark, and his companion, Barbara Parker.

As I said during his funeral service, Coleman Young's leadership and courage informed me and every other black politician who stands for anything in Michigan. The only way to honor his memory is to keep his struggle alive.

TRIBUTE TO MEL WILSON

HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mel Wilson, who has served as the President of the Southland Regional Association of Realtors.

Mel Wilson has worked diligently this past year to enhance the reputation of the Association. It is regarded as one of the preeminent associations of the real estate business as a result of his efforts.

The Association has improved and expanded member services and has enabled all members to successfully pursue the real estate business. Mel has worked to ensure the Association's reputation as a leader in technology has been maintained, an effort which resulted in the development of an award-winning Internet site. The importance of technology, especially in this day and age, is evident to Mel.

A testament to Mel's strength of character and desire to improve our community is exemplified through his actions as the President of this Association. Under his leadership, the Association has continued to play an active role in the community.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join me in paying tribute to Mel Wilson. He is a role model for the citizens of Los Angeles.

A POINT-OF-LIGHT FOR ALL AMERICANS: RUBY NOTTAGE

HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, Ruby Nottage was a Point-Of-Light for Brooklyn and for all urban communities struggling for empowerment. She was a point of light for all Americans. She was a totally unique creation, a magnificent fabric woven from both the rough strands of the street and the well refined strings of mankind's highest cultural aspirations. Ruby Nottage could walk with kings, after all, and never lose the common touch because Ruby Nottage was born a natural queen.

At a time when education has assumed its rightful place on our national agenda it is important to first note that Ruby Nottage was a teacher. She enjoyed a 30-year career in the New York City public school system as a teacher; assistant principal and as principal of P.S. 93 in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Ms. Nottage also proudly served as a Member of the Board, president and trustee of the Brooklyn YWCA for 15 years. She was appointed by Governor Mario Cuomo to the New York State Martin Luther King Commission, and also served as Political Planning Chair of the Brooklyn Women's Political Caucus. She was also a member of the Community Advisory Board for Medgar Evers College. Ms. Nottage was one of the founders of an independent Democratic Club: Partners for Progress. She was also a founding member of the Brooklyn Coalition for Community Empowerment. In 1984, she was elected Democratic District Leader of the 57th Assembly District. Ruby Nottage was also recognized as 1996 Woman of the Year by Brooklyn Links, Inc.

Ruby was as much at home with a political party nominating petition in her hand as she was reviewing a fine work of art. She could prepare and appreciate the finest cuisine. But if a late session at the Board of Elections required that she eat cold fast food she had no complaints. She had ''class'' in the best sense of the word. She would do nothing in a sloppy way. To every action and activity of her life she applied high standards. Ruby was a glowing example of how a royal style can bloom within the context of American grassroots democracy.

My remembrances of Ruby are slightly different from most of her other admirers. I didn't have the delight and the pleasure of growing up with Ruby; of going to school with her; or of working with her as a colleague during her 30 years in the NYC school system. Ruby was a member of a rare species, the native New Yorker, born and raised here. She didn't come like many of us from Tennessee or Texas or Jamaica or Panama or New Jersey. She was a daughter of New York City—of Brownstones, subways, and skyscrapers.

Since I was not fortunate enough to grow up knowing Ruby I had to discover her. What her close friends may take for granted I have had to observe with a sense of wonder and awe. She was a Renaissance woman with a broad range of interests. She reached out for the whole spectrum of experience, the pleasant and the difficult. the same sensitivity and intellect that she brought into a theater or an art gallery she carried into the dirt and grime of partisan politics. She brought the same passion to a discussion of the transition of the Brooklyn political machine that she brought to the merger of modern painting concepts with African diaspora subject matter and contents.

It was as late as 1982 that I first discovered Ruby Nottage. She was a founding member of the Brooklyn Coalition for Community Empowerment. We later shared the euphoria of the Jesse Jackson bid for the Presidency and the David Dinkins mayoral victory. We also shared more than a few excruciating disappointments in the arena of politics. Throughout some very intense group soul searching and heated debates Ruby never lost the nobility in her demeanor. She was always the teacher who used exemplary English and offered clarity and logic to keep the deliberations on track.

We all appreciated very much Ruby's dedication to the cause of community empowerment. On one occasion following a very discouraging meeting she pulled me aside and pointing a finger in my face, whispered: ''You know, Major, you are one of the few people who have continued to believe in group decision-making and real community empowerment after you got elected.''

I have a vivid recollection of that compliment. Her words were like a Congressional Medal of Honor. When you are in the political trenches surrounded by sell-outs and cynicism there are few things as inspiring as recognition and understanding from a respected fellow worker.

It was an honor to receive praise from Ruby because she had no hidden political agenda. She was the most unselfish District Leader in America. Politics added nothing to her life except headaches and challenges. It was by choice, not need, that she accepted the challenges and became the District Leader for the 57th Assembly District. By choice this Renaissance Lady had woven a life for herself that was unique. Where else could you find the combination of school principal and District Leader? Along with her husband, Wally, and the rest of the family, Ruby created a combination Brownstone palace and art gallery on